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Wastewater Sludges Transformed into Oil and Fertilizer

WASHINGTON, D.C., February 24, 1999— The Environmental Technology Evaluation Center (EvTEC) is presently evaluating two wastewater treatment technologies from ThermoEnergy Corporation that recover economically useful products from the waste stream. EvTEC is an Innovation Center of the Civil Engineering Research Foundation (CERF), operating under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Environmental Technology Verification (ETV) program.

The first wastewater technology-ThermoEnergy's patented Ammonia Removal Process (ARP)-is in the final stages of its EvTEC evaluation. The ARP is unique in that it removes/reduces the ammonia-nitrogen load in the waste stream of a municipal sewage treatment plant and then recycles it into an ammonium salt that can be used as an agricultural fertilizer. ThermoEnergy Corporation has teamed with Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) to produce a pilot scale plant at New York City's Oakwood Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) to evaluate the ARP technology. The pilot plant underwent testing from September to December of 1998. The initial results from the pilot study have proved very promising, and EvTEC is documenting the findings in an evaluation report that will be published in the spring of 1999.

The second patented ThermoEnergy technology-the Sludge to Oil Reactor System (STORS)-converts undigested wastewater sludge into a useable fuel oil. The benefits of STORS over traditional wastewater treatment operations include: the economic value of the oil produced, lower overall costs, reduced operational footprint size needed to handle and process the sludge, and virtual elimination of the transportation and disposal costs for treated sludge. The STORS process will be tested as a full-scale plant being constructed in Colton, California. The testing is scheduled to begin in the fall of 1999, and will run for approximately six to nine months under EvTEC's evaluation.

EvTEC has assembled an expert panel made up of technology users, regulators, and other stakeholders from the wastewater industry to recommend the testing protocols needed, and to oversee and review the results for evaluating the ThermoEnergy technologies. The main purpose of these evaluations is to demonstrate that the technologies can operate as stated and perform at a lower overall lifecycle cost than traditional wastewater treatment methods. For further information concerning the ThermoEnergy ARP and STORS evaluations, EvTEC, or other CERF Innovation Centers, please contact Stacy Warner at 202-842-0555 or corporate@cerf.org.

CERF is an independent, nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization created by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and headquartered in Washington, D.C. CERF began operation in 1989 to bring together diverse groups within the civil engineering community to "facilitate,

integrate, and coordinate" common solutions to complex research challenges facing the civil engineering profession. CERF operates innovative technology evaluation centers in the areas of highways, public works, the environment, and buildings to help the design and construction industry expedite the transfer of innovation into practice.

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